

(b) and (c) There is no authentic information on the opinion of Professor of Computational and Visual neurosciences in the Department of Brain at Cognitive Science at MIT, USA about visual impaired children in India. However, childhood blindness is one of the focused area under the National Programme for Control of Blindness. Steps being taken under the Programme for prevention and control of Childhood blindness during the Tenth five year plan are:—

- (i) to provide eye glasses to about 1.5 million children having significant refractive errors.
- (ii) To develop 50 paediatric ophthalmology Units at tertiary level.
- (iii) To train at least 200 eye specialities in various sub-specialities of ophthalmology including paediatric Ophthalmology.
- (iv) To develop IEC for paediatric ophthalmology.

Non-availability of basic medicines

2655. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a report given by Oxfam, two people out of every three in India do not get even the basic medicines like Paracetamol;

(b) if so, the reasons for denial of the basic facilities like medicines; and

(c) the steps Government are considering to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Basic amenities in PHCs and CHCs

2656. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization

for UNICEF in 43 districts from 14 States in the country found that 60 per cent health centres even don't have taps on their premises;

(b) if so, the details of survey report thereof;

(c) whether rural healthcare systems in many States are slowly falling even though a large number of health centres in existence and most of them remain under staffed or without basic amenities;

(d) whether health centres in Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, North-East and Delhi were the worst as High Court, Delhi issued notices to States and Centre on deplorable condition of hospital; and

(e) if so, the steps considering to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 43 districts of country, 26.3% Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have exclusive tap water source. 17.5% PHCs, as per the survey have private hand pump and 32.6% have public hand pump as source of water.

(c) Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for improving and upgrading the health facilities in rural areas by extending support to infrastructure, equipment and drugs, manpower etc. State Governments are required to prepare Annual Programme Implementation Plan under NRHM to incorporate their needs for upgradation of health facilities in rural areas. Each Sub-centre and Primary Health Centre (PHC) are given an amount of Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 25,000/- respectively as untied fund for local health action. Also annual maintenance grant @ Rs. 50,000/- per PHC is being provided. For upgrading of Community Health Centre (CHC) to India Public Health Standards (IPHS), fund @ Rs. 20 lakh per CHC, for two CHCs per district, have been released to the State Governments under NRHM.

(d) and (e) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, these are well-equipped. Further, conditions in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are being continuously reviewed and new technologies/equipments are procured from time to time depending upon need/resources.